Agenda Date: 12/18/02 Agenda Item: VII B



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

	<u>Customer Assistance</u>
Red Bone, Inc., t/a The Walker House, Petitioner, v.) ORDER ADOPTING) INITIAL DECISION)
Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Inc.,) BPU Docket No. GC02030202U) OAL Docket No. PUC 5427-02)
Respondent)

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On March 26, 2002, Red Bone, Inc., t/a The Walker House (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board), alleging billing mistakes by Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Inc. (Respondent).

On May 16, 2002, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Thomas E. Clancy.

During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and executed a Stipulation of Settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On November 14, 2002, ALJ Clancy filed his Initial Decision with the Board, recommending that the settlement be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

The settlement provides, inter alia, for two lump sum payments by the Petitioner to the Respondent, each payment in the amount of \$2,500.00. In turn, upon receipt of these payments, the settlement provides that Respondent will credit Petitioner's account in the amount of \$1,500.00.

After review, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 12/19/02 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

SIGNED

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CAROL J. MURPHY COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY Red Bone, Inc., t/a The Walker House v. Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Inc.

BPU Dkt. No. GC02030202U OAL Dkt. No. PUC 5427-02

SERVICE LIST

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